DEPARTMENT OF
MUSIC

WORLD MUSIC

WEST AFRICAN MUSIC ENSEMBLE CONCERT

Robert Kpogo, Director
Wisdom Agorde, Assistant Director

Saturday, March 8, 2008 at 8:00 pm

Convocation Hall

Arts Building
University of Alberta

Department of Music
University of Alberta

Program

Welcome – Dr. Kwasi Amenu- Tekaa (Master of Ceremony)
Drumming Prelude: Wajjo Drummers
Dance: – Zigi
Ayanmo Drummers and Dancers
Teza Dudu (Yam Festival)
Founder's Short Address – Dr Michael Frishkopf
Dance: -Gahu

Intermission

Dance - Atsiagbekor-Agbadza
Ayanmo Drummers and Dancers
Fiayeye Dodo Fe Aza (Coronation of New King)
Wajjo Drummers
Dance - Gota

West African Music Ensemble, 2007-2008
Robert Kpogo, Instructor
Wisdom Agorde, Instructor
David Descheneau, Master Drummer
Rana El kadi, Teaching Assistant
Cari Friesen, Volunteer Assistant

The West African Music Ensemble, studies the polyphonic and polyrhythmic music of West Africa with particular focus on the Music of Ewe people of Ghana, Togo and Benin. This music combines song, dance, and percussion. As each component is crucial to the experience of Ewe music, all members participate as dancers, singers, and drummers. Founded in the fall of 1999 by Michael Frishkopf, the West African Music Ensemble is regularly featured in the Centre for Ethnomusicology's "World Music Sampler" and the University of Alberta International Week as well as occasional special events. The Ensemble is fortunate to own a complete set of authentic West African instruments for use by registered members of the group.

Members

Kendra Cowley
Suzanne Daugela
Sarah Gardner
Karene Gervais
Meena Gupta
Femie Sonuga
Maigan Van der Giessen
Grace Chapman
Diana Kinyua
Paul Lam
Neel Malhotra
Chloe Mongerson
Christeve Cheng

Wajjo African Drummers
Formed in 1990, Wajjo African Drummers and Dancers introduce traditional African music to a Western audience and create through collaboration with musicians from other ethnic backgrounds and indigenous musical tradition that is a reflection of canada's rich cultural diversity.

Ayanmo Drummers and Dancers led by Prince Stanley Koledoye
Prince Stanley Ebun Oluwa Koledoye was born into a family of local musicians in a small town in Ondo State of Nigeria in West Africa. As a little boy growing up, he showed so many talents in regards to performing and entertaining, which made him popular among his youth friends. He became more popular in High School when

he started participating in High School cultural and dramatic groups and in his Church choir. He wrote plays and composed songs and also featured in plays written by Nigerian popular writers such as Professor Wole Soyinka's "This is our chance".

In Edmonton, Alberta, he has been in many groups such as Wajjo Drummers and Kekeli Dancers and he co-founded the popular Okoto Dancers, Ayanmo and currently leading the Asante performing group. Prince Stanley has always believed that "A TREE DOES NOT MAKE A FOREST", and whatever talent God gives you, try as much as possible to share it with people and the rest will follow.

West African Music Ensemble dances

Agbadza like Atsiagbekor is traditionally a war dance. These types of dances are sometimes used as military training exercises with signals from the lead drum to move ahead, to the right, go down etc.... They also helped in preparing the warriors for battle and upon their return from fighting. They would act out their deed in battle through their movements in the dance. In the present days, Agbadza is used in social and recreational situations to celebrate peace.

Atsiagbekor/gbekor is a contemporary version of the Ewe traditional war dance. The movements of the present day version of this dance are mostly in platoon formation. Reconnaissance, surprise attack and hand to hand combat are the stylized forms of the modern version of this dance. The main dance is fast paced and draws upon battle maneuvers for certain episodes, such as planning the attack, advancing and retreating. The modern version of Atsiagbekor is performed for entertainment at social gatherings and at cultural presentations.

Gahu/agahu was created by the Egun speaking people of Benin. Its popularity spread to the Badagry area of Nigeria where Ewe fishermen encountered it and shared it, with their people upon return to Ghana. In the language of the creators, Gahu/agahu means "airplane"-in reference to an event that occurred during its inaugural performance. As the Gahu/Agahu spread, it has collected song texts in many languages including, Egun, Yoruba, Ewe, French, and English.

Gota was originally a dance for medicine men of the ancient kingdom of Dahomey, now Benin, in West Africa. Today, Gota is performed for social entertainment. The synchronized stops and starts of the drums and dancers lend the dance an air of suspense and excitement.

Zigi is a recreational dance type of Asorgli ethnic group from Ziavi Dzogbe; a small town in the District of Ho located in the central part of the Volta Region of Ghana.. It is known as one of the local music ensembles which play an important role in the culture of Asorgli society. This particular group has a rich store of musical types such as Tuidzi or Akpese popularly known as Borborbor and other types are Asafo, Adevu, Gabada, Egbanegba, Adavatram, Aviha, Zigi. Zigi songs are eminently enjoyable, dramatic and closely related to the people and their way of life with its social, moral and spiritual support. In the past, only mature women could perform Zigi for their different events and occasions. But it happened that the picture has changed since 1973. In fact, Zigi which was one time a favourite dance in the community began to disappear from the musical scene of Ziavi because the younger generation did not show interest in the dance. This lack of interest changed in the early seventies when drumming and dancing were introduced again on competitive basis in the elementary schools since then, Zigi was therefore revived on a small scale in the Ziavi schools.

World Music Summer Course
7-25 July 2008
Music X44
West African Music Ensemble

Join us!

Meeting for Departmental consent will be held at first class

LCL B1 MTWRF 1400 1615 FAB 2 7

Director	Robert Kpogo
Instructors	Robert Kpogo, Wisdom Agorde
Master Drummer	David Descheneau

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Summer Course in Ghana!
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